



February 15, 2011

Ms. Demaree Collier
Work Assignment Manager (SR-6J)
Remedial Response Unit No. 1
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 5
77 West Jackson Boulevard
Chicago, IL 60604

**Subject: Review of Contractor's Response to Comments on the
Revised Draft Report Biological Assessment of the
Little Vermilion River Adjacent to the
Matthiessen and Hegeler Zinc Company Site
LaSalle, LaSalle County, Illinois from February 8, 2011
Contract No. EP-S5-06-02, Work Assignment No. 015-RSBD-B568**

Dear Ms. Collier:

SulTRAC has performed a review of responses by Geosyntec Consultants (Geosyntec), the contractor for Carus Corporation, to comment on the revised draft report biological assessment of the Little Vermilion River adjacent to the Matthiessen and Hegeler Zinc Company Site. Geosyntec submitted the document to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) on February 8, 2011. SulTRAC received the document on February 9, 2011, and reviewed the document. SulTRAC's technical review comments on the document are enclosed.

If you have any questions regarding the review comments, please call me at (312) 443-0550, ext. 21.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jennifer Knoepfle".

Jennifer Knoepfle, Ph.D.
Project Manager

Enclosure

cc: Darlene Hainer, EPA Contracting Officer (letter only)
Mindy Gould, SulTRAC Program Manager (letter only)
David Homer, SulTRAC Senior Environmental Scientist
File

ENCLOSURE
REVIEW OF CONTRACTOR'S RESPONSE TO COMMENTS ON THE
REVISED DRAFT REPORT BIOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT OF THE
LITTLE VERMILION RIVER ADJACENT TO THE
MATTHIESSEN AND HEGELER ZINC COMPANY SITE
LASALLE, LASALLE COUNTY, ILLINOIS
FEBRUARY 8, 2011

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LASALLE, LASALLE COUNTY, ILLINOIS
FEBRUARY 8, 2011**

COMMENTS ON RESPONSE TO COMMENTS TEXT:

SulTRAC focused its review on the comments previously submitted – comment numbers 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, and 14 in the above cited document. The responses by Geosyntec Consultants (Geosyntec) adequately address these numbered comments.

For the remaining comments it is recommended that Geosyntec revise the text to clearly state that the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency's (IEPA) protocol as outlined in the sampling and analysis plan (SAP) was not followed and there is uncertainty associated with the data. Also, the calculations of the mIBI should be included in the report and the uncertainty section could be used to explain why it is believed the calculated indices are of value as an indicator of potential conditions within the Little Vermilion River (LVR). This coupled with additional sediment bioassay data would provide a more complete weight of evidence than is currently in the biological assessment for the LVR.